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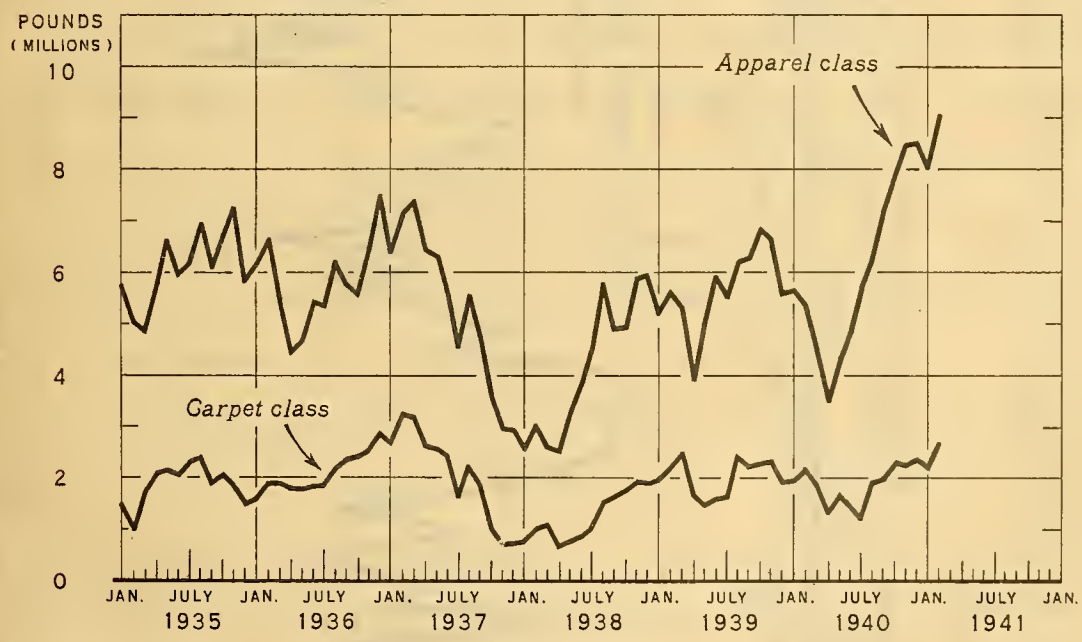
THE Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WOOL-52 BAE APRIL 1941

MILL CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL AND CARPET WOOL
(SCOURED BASIS), UNITED STATES, 1935-41*
(WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR EACH MONTH)



* DATA FROM BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 39073 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

STIMULATED BY LARGE ORDERS FOR ARMY MATERIALS, DOMESTIC MILL CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL WOOL HAS INCREASED RAPIDLY IN RECENT MONTHS. THE RATE OF CONSUMPTION (SCOURED BASIS) IN FEBRUARY WAS THE HIGHEST IN 23 YEARS OF RECORD. UNFILLED ARMY ORDERS NOW HELD BY MILLS CALL FOR DELIVERY OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF WOOL CLOTH IN THE NEXT 8 MONTHS. WITH FURTHER INCREASES IN CONSUMER INCOMES AND RETAIL SALES ALSO IN PROSPECT, MILL CONSUMPTION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT A HIGH LEVEL THROUGH MOST OF 1941. CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL WOOL FOR THE YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE LARGER THAN IN ANY PREVIOUS YEAR.

MILL CONSUMPTION OF CARPET WOOL ALSO HAS INCREASED, BUT IT IS BELOW THE RECORD CONSUMPTION IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1937.

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WOOL, APPAREL: MILL CONSUMPTION AND IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1933-41

CONSUMPTION, ESTIMATES OF NEW YORK WOOL TOP EXCHANGE SERVICE
IMPORTS, BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

U. S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 32651 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

FIGURE 1.- THE LARGE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF APPAREL WOOL IN LATE 1940 AND THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1941 WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A SHARP INCREASE IN IMPORTS. IMPORTS OF APPAREL WOOL IN THE FIRST 2 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, TOTALING 106.5 MILLION POUNDS, WERE LARGER THAN IN ANY SIMILAR PERIOD SINCE 1921. IMPORTS ARE LIKELY TO DECLINE AS THE NEW DOMESTIC CLIP BECOMES AVAILABLE IN THE LATE SPRING AND SUMMER.

THE DROP IN MILL CONSUMPTION, GREASE BASIS, SINCE OCTOBER REFLECTS CHIEFLY THE INCREASING PROPORTION OF LIGHT SHRINKING FOREIGN WOOLS USED. THE WEEKLY RATE OF CONSUMPTION, SCOURED BASIS, INCREASED DURING THIS PERIOD.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Summary

Mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States in 1941 is expected to be considerably greater than in 1940 and larger than in any previous year. Large orders for wool fabrics for Army use and the high level of incomes of consumers are the important reasons for the large consumption. The weekly rate of consumption of apparel wool, scoured basis, in February was the highest in the 23 years of record.

The prospect of a record mill consumption will be a strong supporting factor to domestic wool prices in the 1941 marketing season. Quotations on new clip domestic wools for near-future delivery at Boston appeared to be about equal to spot prices of old clip wools as the new season got under way about April 1. Prices in mid-March in early shearing States were 5 to 7 cents a pound higher than a year earlier.

Imports of apparel wool for consumption totaled 106.5 million pounds in the first 2 months of 1941 compared with 45.1 million pounds imported in the same months last year. Imports in the early months of this year were larger than at any time since 1921. The large imports were stimulated by relatively small supplies of domestic wool, and the need for large quantities of raw wool to complete Army orders.

In recent months the spread between prices of domestic and foreign wool has been reduced. South American supplies of fine wools suitable for United States purchase are clearing rapidly. With the new domestic clip now becoming available, United States imports are likely to decline in the late spring and summer.

Exports of wool from Argentina and Uruguay in the first 5 months (October-February) of the current export season totaled 272.7 million pounds and were larger than those for the same months of any recent year. About 83 percent of the shipments from October through February were to the United States. As a result of the large exports, supplies of wool remaining in Argentina and Uruguay on March 1 were estimated to be 15 percent smaller than a year earlier and about 14 percent smaller than the 1935-39 March 1 average. The calculated stocks as of March 1 probably included a considerable quantity of wool already sold and awaiting shipment.

Supplies of wool in South Africa and Australia probably are relatively large. But the growing shortage of shipping space and advancing freight rates will tend to restrict exports from those countries.

-- April 10, 1941

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Wool prices firm as new domestic season opens at Boston

Wool prices at Boston were unchanged or slightly higher in March. Sales were rather limited in volume, chiefly because of the small available supplies of spot domestic wools. Some forward sales were reported on wools to be delivered from the new clip. Quotations on new clip wools for near future delivery appear to be about at current old clip levels. Spot prices at Boston at the close of the 1940 selling season (about April 1, 1941) were equal to or only slightly below the highest prices of the season, established in October and November. Prices of domestic wools at Boston have been quite steady for the last 5 months. Except for some short periods of irregularity, quotations have been largely unchanged since the latter part of October. Prices of representative grades of territory wool at Boston in March were 10 to 15 cents a pound, scoured basis, higher than in March 1940.

Contracting of new clip wools in Texas and the Western States continued in March at prices equivalent to about $1.00-$1.05 a pound, scoured basis, delivered Boston, for fine grades, according to reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Prices on such wools were firm or slightly higher than in February. Early sales were much larger this year than last. At the end of March, 3/8 and 1/4 blood bright Ohio fleece wools which will be available within a few weeks sold at Boston for future delivery at 43-44 cents a pound, grease basis, delivered to eastern markets. Similar wools of the 1940 clip were offered a year ago at 35-37 cents a pound.

The United States average price of wool received by farmers was 33.4 cents a pound on March 15 compared with 32.1 cents on February 15 and 27.3 cents on March 15, 1940.

Prices of foreign wools at Boston strengthen in March

Demand for fine grades of foreign apparel wools continued good at Boston in March. Prices were generally firm and in some cases advanced slightly during the month. Although receipts of foreign wool have been relatively large in the last few months, the wool has moved rapidly into consuming channels. Medium grades of foreign wool also sold in fair volume during March. Sales of Australian 64s combing wools at Boston were reported the latter part of March at $1.00-$1.05 scoured basis, including duty, and good topmaking 64s, 70s, brought $1.02-$1.06. Fine South American wools were quoted mostly at 98 cents to $1.03 a pound, scoured basis, compared with 95 cents to $1.00 a pound a month earlier, according to reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Trading in grease wool futures begun on March 17

Trading in grease wool futures began on the New York Exchange on March 17. Trading in wool top futures has been in operation at the New York Exchange since May 18, 1931. The new grease wool contract calls for the delivery of the grease equivalent of 6,000 pounds of clean wool. The standard for delivery is a 64s quality, graded wool, shorn from living animals in the United States. But domestic or foreign shorn and pulled wools of average 60s or finer grade (United States standard) are tenderable at proper differences. Foreign wools for delivery must be duty paid. Delivery of wool on exchange contracts is to be made from licensed public warehouses located in the Greater Boston area.

Trading in the May contract on the opening day (March 17) was at 96.4 cents with October futures at 94.1 cents a pound, scoured basis. On March 31 the May contract traded at 96.0 cents and the October contract at 95.7 cents, sceured basis. Contracts traded in the first 2 weeks of operation (to March 31) represented about 2.2 million pounds of clean wool, according to the New York Wool Top Exchange Service. The grease wool spot price on the New York Exchange ranged from 95 to 98 cents, scoured basis, on reported sales in the 2 weeks ended March 31.

Imports increased further in February

Imports of apparel wool for consumption 1/ totaled 54.7 million pounds in February compared with 51.8 million pounds in January and 20.8 million pounds in February 1940. The February imports were the largest for any month since April 1921. Of the 106.5 million pounds imported in the first 2 months of this year, 76.4 million pounds were wools grading finer than 56s. Imports of carpet wool for consumption totaled 18 million pounds in February, 20.4 million pounds in January, and 16.1 million pounds in February 1940.

1/ Wool entered for immediate consumption plus wool withdrawn from bonded warehouses on which duty has been paid.

Imports by countries in 1940

South American countries provided a much larger percentage of United States imports of apparel wool in 1940 than in most recent years. More than half of the 1940 imports came from Argentina and Uruguay. Imports from the Union of South Africa also were much larger in 1940 than in any recent year. Although considerable wool was obtained from Australia the quantity was small in relation to total imports. In most recent years Australia had been the principal source of fine wool imports for the United States. The relatively small imports from Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, reflect the purchase and control by the British Government of the entire wool productio of those countries since the outbreak of the war. With the opening of the 1940-41 season the purchase was extended to cover South African production.

Wool imports for consumption by principal countries of production, United States, 1939 and 1940

Country of production	1939			1940		
	Carpet wool including camels' hair	Apparel wool: Not finer than 40s 1/	Apparel wool: Finer than 40s	Carpet wool including camels' hair	Apparel wool: Not finer than 40s 1/	Apparel wool: Finer than 40s
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Argentina	45,609	13,932	8,079	66,413	20,540	65,473
Uruguay	598	634	16,062	216	1,215	43,144
Chile	0	0	1,217	0	3	4,396
Australia	34	257	29,113	0	114	39,358
New Zealand	8,019	5,640	6,697	872	548	3,974
Union of South Africa	1,196	0	8,329	1,105	42	31,233
British India	38,236	552	0	20,211	130	0
United Kingdom	10,157	1,475	2,211	7,278	330	1,082
Ireland	2,513	177	217	3,600	520	534
Syria	8,386	167	0	5,280	0	0
Iraq	10,520	0	0	14,152	25	0
France	4,052	290	13	178	16	26
China	2,663	156	0	7,123	124	0
Egypt	4,168	38	0	2,062	40	0
Canada	70	135	2,015	1	117	3,193
Other countries	8,653	129	658	6,200	70	6,736
Total	144,874	23,582	74,611	134,691	23,834	199,149

Compiled from Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States, December issues.

Mill consumption at new high in February

Mill consumption of apparel wool averaged 9,058,000 pounds a week, scoured basis, in February, compared with 8,023,000 pounds in January and 5,326,000 pounds in February 1940. The rate of consumption in February

exceeded that of December (the previous high), by 6.5 percent to reach a new high for the 23 years of record. Because of the smaller number of working days in February, total consumption for the month was slightly smaller than the December consumption. Mill consumption of apparel wool has been at a record level since November.

Consumption of apparel wool in the first 2 months of 1941 was equivalent to 149.8 million pounds, greasy shorn and pulled. In the same months last year, consumption on a grease basis totaled 97.3 million pounds. About 86.5 million pounds of the wool consumed in January and February 1941 were domestic wool and 63.3 million pounds were foreign. In the entire year 1940, consumption on a grease basis totaled 487 million pounds of domestic wool and 154 million pounds of foreign wool.

Consumption of carpet wool increased in February. The February rate of consumption was 24 percent higher than in February of last year and was the highest for any month since March 1937.

Government awards on wool goods

In March and the early part of April the Army announced awards made under the deficiency appropriation for wool cloth and equipment. The quantities ordered were not fully equal to proposals on some items (see March Wool Situation for proposals). Major awards covered approximately 1,587,500 blankets, 3,200,000 yards of melton overcoating, 9,640,000 yards of serge, and 6,830,000 yards of shirting flannel as well as large quantities of wool gloves, underwear, and socks, and small quantities of miscellaneous cloths.

Blanket awards call for the use of about 60 percent domestic wool and 40 percent foreign wool, awards for serge and shirting will contain about 45 percent domestic wool and 55 percent foreign wool, and overcoating material will be made chiefly from foreign wool. The orders will require about 40 million pounds of clean wool.

South American wool sales decline seasonally

Sales of South American wool declined in March, partly because of the declining supplies of wool suited to United States demand. Prices continued firm on most grades. Wool dealers reported in March that very little wool from Corrientes and Entre Rios remained for disposal and that as much as 80 percent of the November clip in the Province of Buenos Aires had been sold, according to information received from Agricultural Attache Paul O. Nyhus at Buenos Aires. Second clip (March) wools from the Province of Buenos Aires are now available. Wool of this clip is reported to be somewhat inferior to that of the previous season because of the large amounts of burry wools. As a result of cool weather, which is unfavorable for taking a second clip, the clip will be somewhat smaller than had been expected.

Market supplies of fine wool in Montevideo were practically exhausted by the end of March, according to cabled reports. Prices of fine and medium wools have increased steadily during the current selling season in Uruguay.

Unsold stocks in Montevideo at the beginning of April consisted of medium and coarse crossbred wools and miscellaneous wools. Substantial quantities of wool were awaiting shipment to the United States at the beginning of April. It was recently reported that shipping facilities had improved and unshipped orders were expected to be absorbed in April.

South American exports continue large

Exports from Argentina and Uruguay in the first 5 months (October-February) of the current season were larger than in any recent year. Exports from the two countries totaled 272.7 million pounds compared with 197.1 million pounds in the same months last season and a 5-year average for those months of 190.9 million pounds. About 83 percent of the shipments from Argentina and Uruguay from October through February were to United States ports. In the 5 years, 1934-38, only about one-fifth of the shipments went to the United States. Japan has been the second most important buyer in South American markets in the current season, taking 24.3 million pounds or 9 percent of the total exports. Small quantities have been shipped to Russia and Sweden and to a few other neutral countries. Most of the European countries which previously purchased large quantities of South American wools are now cut off from the market by the British blockade. The United Kingdom, previously one of the principal buyers of South American wools, has made only a few small purchases in the current season. Wool requirements of the United Kingdom are being filled largely with wools from British Empire sources.

Wool supplies below average on March 1 in Argentina and Uruguay

Supplies of wool available for export or carry-over in Argentina and Uruguay on March 1 probably totaled about 268 million pounds, compared with 316 million pounds on March 1, 1940. The March 1 stocks this year are estimated to be about 14 percent smaller than the 1935-39 March 1 average. Total supplies available at the beginning of the current season in Argentina and Uruguay were considerably larger than in most recent years. But exports to March 1 were much larger than usual.

In view of shipping difficulties reported in the South American wool trade it is likely that calculated stocks on March 1 this year included a relatively large quantity of wool already sold but awaiting shipment.

Supplies and distribution of wool in Argentina and Uruguay to March 1 of the export season, 1939-41

Item	Argentina		Uruguay	
	1939-40	1940-41 1/	1939-40	1940-41 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Stocks, Oct. 1.	52.9	83.8	9.4	26.5
Production	403.0	397.0	133.9	122.0
Total supply	455.9	480.8	143.3	148.5
For domestic consumption 2/	66.1	66.1	6.6	7.0
Available for export	389.8	414.7	136.7	141.5
Exports, Oct.-Feb. 3/	158.0	206.7	52.2	82.0
Stocks, Mar. 1 (calculated)	231.8	208.0	84.5	59.5

Compiled from official sources and reliable commercial sources.
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimated domestic requirements for entire season. 3/ Export weight of scoured and skin wool converted to a grease basis for Argentina, and Uruguay exports as reported.

Exports of wool from Argentina and Uruguay in the first 5 months (October-February) of the export season, 1934-40 1/

Period beginning Oct. 1	Argentina		Uruguay		Two countries	
	United States 2/	Total	United States	Total	United States	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1934	9.9	127.8	0.6	44.4	10.5	172.2
1935	29.9	135.7	16.6	65.2	46.5	200.9
1936	52.5	166.4	22.3	79.9	74.8	246.3
1937	3.3	77.1	0.3	32.4	3.6	109.5
1938	39.8	175.4	3.6	50.1	43.4	225.5
1939	84.4	144.9	22.2	52.2	106.6	197.1
1940 3/	155.3	190.7	71.0	82.0	226.3	272.7

Compiled from commercial reports supplied by the Buenos Aires office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
1/ Weight of greasy, scoured, and skin wool as reported.
2/ Includes small shipments to Canada in some years.
3/ Preliminary.

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND.- Mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States increased rapidly in the second half of 1940, reflecting in part the manufacture of materials for large Army contracts. Consumption in the final quarter of 1940 was larger than at any time since 1918, and despite a relatively small consumption in the early part of the year total consumption in 1940 was larger than in any recent year except 1935.

The increase in mill consumption was accompanied in the latter part of 1940 by an increase of 15 to 20 percent in domestic wool prices. At the end of 1940 prices at Boston were slightly below the peak of 1939, but with that exception higher than at any time since 1937.

United States imports of apparel wool in 1940 were the largest since 1923. But stocks in this country remained smaller than the average of recent years.

Mill consumption in 1941 expected to set new high; prices will be higher than in 1940

In March and the early part of April, Army contracts for wool cloth were awarded which will require the use of about 40 million pounds of scoured wool. These contracts will be completed during 1941, in addition to previous orders which call for delivery of large quantities of wool cloth before August 1. With further increases in consumer incomes in prospect in the next few months, consumption of wool for civilian uses is likely to increase in 1941. Mill sales of wool fabrics for civilian uses in 1940 were about 10 percent smaller than in 1939 although incomes of consumers increased in 1940. The decline in mill sales probably is reflected in reduced stocks in consuming channels. It is also possible that additional Government orders will be placed under the 1941-42 appropriation which becomes available July 1.

In view of these factors it appears likely that consumption of apparel wool will continue at a relatively high level until the latter part of 1941. And consumption for the year may exceed that of all other years on record. Consumption in 1918, the first year for which data are available, totaled 371 million pounds, scoured basis, an average of 7.1 million pounds a week. In 1935 consumption totaled 319 million pounds, the second highest on record. Consumption in the first 2 months of 1941 was at the rate of 8.5 million pounds a week.

The prospect of a record mill consumption in 1941 will be a strong supporting factor to domestic wool prices in the 1941 marketing season. Farm prices for wool in early shearing States in mid-March were 5 to 7 cents a pound higher than a year earlier and farmers probably will receive a larger income from wool this year than last.

Carry-over of domestic wool small

Preliminary calculations indicate that the carry-over of domestic wool into the 1941 season which began about April 1 was the smallest in recent years. Because of the unusually large amount of wool imported in the first quarter of 1941, stocks of foreign wool in this country on April 1 probably were somewhat larger than was anticipated earlier in the season. But the total carry-over was not large in relation to the current rate of mill consumption. Data on stocks held by dealers and manufacturers on April 1 and stocks of old clip wool in Western States will be released by the Bureau of the Census about April 25.

Supplies in foreign countries available to United States

In the early months of the 1940-41 export season the spread between prices of domestic and South American wools was relatively large, and large quantities of wool were purchased in Argentina and Uruguay for export to the United States. In recent months, however, the spread has been reduced. Furthermore, South American supplies of good quality fine wools suitable for United States purposes are reported to be clearing rapidly and it is likely that sales for export to the United States will decline.

Supplies of fine wool in Australia and the Union of South Africa probably are relatively large, although the allocation of 250 million pounds from the 1940-41 clip in Australia, for storage in the United States, removed a considerable quantity of wool from commercial channels. But the entire production of the Union of South Africa and Australia is under control of the British Government and is being sold at fixed prices by that Government. In the past year the British Wool Control has followed a policy of maintaining a relatively high level of prices for wool released for export to other countries. The growing scarcity of shipping space and the rapid advance in freight rates will limit the availability of this wool to the United States. A considerable quantity of Australian wool has already been received in the United States for storage, in bond, as an emergency reserve. Withdrawal of this wool will be possible only in case of deficiencies in the supply of domestic wools or where normal imports are interrupted.

Prices per pound, grease basis, of medium wools at Boston and Montevideo, 1939-41

Month	1939-40			1940-41		
	Boston 1/	Montevideo 2/	Spread	Boston 1/	Montevideo 2/	Spread
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Oct.	48.9	3/	---	45.0	4/ 25.9	19.1
Nov.	47.0	3/	---	46.4	28.2	18.2
Dec.	46.0	24.9	21.1	45.2	29.0	16.2
Jan.	44.6	25.3	19.3	44.8	29.9	14.9
Feb.	42.4	28.8	13.6	44.0	31.4	12.6
Mar.	38.5	29.6	8.9			

1/ Average of domestic 3/8 and 1/4 blood combing bright fleece wools from Agricultural Marketing Service.
2/ Uruguayan fine crossbreds, superior from Revista Semanal, Camara Mercantel de Productos del Pais. Prices converted from pesos at controlled rates of exchange.
3/ Not quoted.
4/ 2 weeks only.

Data for figure 1

Mill consumption of apparel and carpet wool in the United States, 1935-41

Weekly average for each month, scoured basis 1/

Class and year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Apparel class												
1935	5,748	5,048	4,860	5,725	6,632	5,971	6,173	6,957	6,091	6,681	7,257	5,829
1936	6,145	6,639	5,448	4,438	4,673	5,409	5,338	6,201	5,782	5,569	6,445	7,500
1937	6,372	7,130	7,287	6,435	6,314	5,553	4,529	5,532	4,750	3,563	2,956	2,909
1938 2/	2,542	3,023	2,603	2,525	3,236	3,867	4,549	4,784	4,905	4,924	5,878	5,938
1939	5,188	5,612	5,278	3,914	5,061	5,943	5,498	6,177	6,252	6,797	6,609	5,595
1940	5,638	5,326	4,427	3,494	4,266	4,843	5,686	6,200	7,152	7,848	8,455	8,503
1941	8,023	9,058										
Carpet class												
1935	1,487	1,495	1,700	2,079	2,139	2,049	2,276	2,366	1,895	2,032	1,842	1,488
1936	1,574	1,856	1,874	1,776	1,751	1,308	1,826	2,154	2,319	2,391	2,497	2,853
1937	2,663	3,226	3,181	2,617	2,560	2,405	1,596	2,188	1,831	1,005	698	717
1938 2/	734	996	1,082	668	759	838	999	1,506	1,597	1,732	1,918	1,900
1939	1,957	2,194	2,464	1,631	1,463	1,573	1,597	2,401	2,212	2,255	2,310	1,916
1940	1,941	2,165	1,835	1,308	1,631	1,450	1,212	1,893	1,985	2,277	2,242	2,339
1941	2,193	2,678										

Compiled from raw wool consumption reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Monthly periods consist of four or five calendar weeks. In computing weekly averages no adjustment has been made for holidays.
2/ Data for 1938-41 subject to revision on the basis of the biennial Census of Manufactures.

United States: Wool imports, consumption, and machinery activity selected periods 1939-41

Item	Year 1939	Year 1940	1940 Jan.	1940 Feb.	1941 Jan.	1941 Feb.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Imports for consumption, actual weight 1/:						
Apparel	93,194	222,933	24,266	20,791	51,809	54,698
Finer than 40s	74,612	199,149	22,110	18,563	49,047	49,879
Not finer than 40s	23,582	23,834	2,156	2,228	2,762	4,819
Carpet, including camels hair	144,875	134,691	20,498	16,149	20,354	17,932
Mill consumption 2/:						
Grease basis 3/ -						
Apparel	630,150	640,871	56,420	40,915	79,755	70,037
Carpet	148,513	137,494	14,050	12,308	15,720	15,429
Scoured basis -						
Aggregate -						
Apparel	293,083	310,021	28,189	21,302	40,115	36,230
Carpet	103,421	97,852	9,703	8,658	10,965	10,712
Weekly average -						
Apparel	5,636	5,962	5,638	5,326	8,023	9,058
Carpet	1,989	1,882	1,941	2,165	2,193	2,678
	Weekly average in hours					
Machinery activity 2/:						
Hours operated per machine in place -						
Worsted combs	51.8	55.1	52.8	48.9	77.3	84.6
Worsted spindles	39.6	37.8	34.5	32.7	51.3	56.7
Woolen spindles	39.8	43.1	41.3	39.9	53.4	58.3
Woolen and worsted looms -						
Broad	40.7	38.8	43.4	37.2	52.9	58.3
Narrow	13.2	13.5	13.6	15.7	15.7	17.6
Carpet and rug looms -						
Broad	37.4	37.8	42.0	42.6	43.2	50.2
Narrow	22.7	22.0	23.0	22.1	26.4	30.4

Import figures from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Consumption and machinery activity from the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Weight of greasy, scoured, and skin wool added together.
2/ Figures for February based on 4 weeks, January on 5 weeks. No adjustments made for holidays.
3/ Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool, grease basis, is in condition received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

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Prices of wool per pound in specified markets, and prices of textile raw materials in the United States, selected periods, 1939-41

Market and description	Average 1939	Average 1940	High 1939 1/	1940 Mar.	1941 Jan.	1941 Feb.	1941 Mar.
United States:	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Boston market-							
Territory, scoured basis-							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) staple	82.7	96.3	109.5	93.6	108.1	107.5	108.5
56s (3/8 blood) combing	69.3	79.7	94.1	77.0	86.5	86.2	87.1
46s (low 1/4 blood)	62.6	76.1	87.5	76.0	79.5	79.5	79.5
Bright fleece, greasy-							
64s, 70s, 80s (fine) delaine	32.9	38.0	43.0	36.6	43.3	43.0	43.0
56s (3/8 blood) combing	36.2	41.2	48.8	38.5	44.8	44.0	44.0
46s (low 1/4 blood)	35.5	41.0	49.0	39.5	43.9	43.5	43.5
Foreign wool - in bond at:							
Boston 2/							
Sydney - scoured basis							
64s, 70s, combing	58.6	67.9	79.2	73.5	73.3	74.0	74.0
Cape - scoured basis							
12 months, combing	53.7	62.9	73.8	66.0	70.5	72.5	72.5
Montevideo - grease basis:							
Merinos (60-64s)	26.1	31.2	36.5	31.5	34.7	37.4	39.4
1s (56s)	28.3	32.4	38.5	35.5	33.5	35.8	36.7
Prices received by farmers, grease basis, 15th of month	22.3	3/28.4	28.7	27.3	31.3	32.1	33.4
Textile fibers:							
Wool, territory fine staple 4/	82.7	96.3	109.5	93.6	108.1	107.5	108.5
Cotton, 15/16" Middling 5/	9.30	10.17	10.84	10.60	10.10	10.13	10.58
Silk, Japanese 6/	271.8	278.1	392.1	295.1	256.0	258.9	281.6
Rayon yarn, 150 denier 7/	51.5	53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0	53.0
Rayon staple fiber 8/							
Viscose 1-1/2 denier	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Acetate 5 denier	46.0	43.0	46.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0

Compiled from reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service except as otherwise noted.

1/ Highest monthly average price.
2/ Before payment of duty. Compiled from the Boston Commercial Bulletin.
3/ Preliminary.
4/ Scoured basis, Boston market.
5/ Average at 10 markets. New series, 15/16" in place of 7/8" previously quoted.
6/ White, 13-15 denier, at New York, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
7/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
8/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.